



# Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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Website: [www.bluecoatacademy.org](http://www.bluecoatacademy.org)  
Principal: Mr D Smith

26<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

As we approach the Easter break, I wanted to take the opportunity to outline the arrangements for the end of term and to provide some updates on the ever-changing circumstances in which we are operating in. We may need to issue further updates over Easter as we receive more information from the Department for Education.

We break up on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 for the Easter break, pupils will return to forms after period 3 and then there will be a phased dismissal from 12.15p.m. onwards. The normal canteen service will be available to Year 9 (at breaktime) on the last day of term but in the current circumstances it will not be possible to run a normal service at lunchtime for other year groups, but there will be an opportunity for pupils to order a packed lunch on that day. **All pupils will return to school at the normal time on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April.**

## Coronavirus Testing

The Department for Education have confirmed that Coronavirus testing should continue during the Easter holidays. Pupils have been provided with tests kits this week which will last for the remainder of this term and throughout the Easter break. The expectations from the Department for Education are:

- test twice a week at home from now on (all those who are able to)
- report results online as positive, negative or void. This information is critical in helping us to understand the prevalence of the virus across the country
- continue to test twice weekly over the Easter holidays
- test before returning to school or college for the summer term, either the night before, or morning of, the first day back, to find and isolate any positive cases

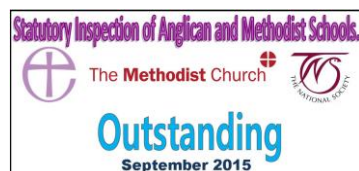
## Daily Contact Testing

We are also participating in a pilot project with the Department of Health and Social Care in association with the University of Oxford and the University of Bristol. The programme of daily tests will allow pupils and staff who consent to testing to attend as normal and take a coronavirus test each day – avoiding the need to self isolate as long as a negative result is returned. We will be providing a briefing to pupils on Monday and issuing a paper copy of a letter explaining the project along with a consent form. Details can be accessed using the link below:

[www.bluecoatacademy.org/parents-carers/coronavirus-testing---daily-contact-tracing](http://www.bluecoatacademy.org/parents-carers/coronavirus-testing---daily-contact-tracing)

Consent can be provided using the link:

[www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DailyContactTestingStudentConsent](http://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DailyContactTestingStudentConsent)



## Uniform

Thank you for your support this term to ensure that your child looks smart each day. We appreciate the challenges of replacing some items of uniform while some shops have been closed and hope that the reopening of non-essential retail from 12<sup>th</sup> April will provide an opportunity to sort out any missing items of uniform. If you are getting new school shoes for your child over the Easter break, please ensure they are plain black with no logos and definitely no training shoes or plimsolls. Please refer to the information below regarding uniform expectations and I would draw particular attention to the expectations regarding hoodies, track suit tops, piercings and hair styles. More details are available on the school website: <https://www.bluecoatacademy.org/parents-carers/school-uniform>

I would again like to express my gratitude to you, parents and carers, for the support you have given to your children over this term, in what have been exceptionally challenging circumstances. We are very keen to ensure that we continue to build effective working relationships with families to ensure that all pupils continue to thrive and fulfil their potential as things slowly return to some sense of normality.

Yours faithfully,



Mr D J Smith  
Principal



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## School Uniform

Students must be properly dressed in school uniform at all times. A smart, tidy appearance is expected of all students. All students should wear:

- A navy blue blazer with embroidered Academy badge sewn to the front pocket
- An Academy tie.
- A white shirt.
- A plain v-necked black pullover (optional).
- Sweatshirts are not part of our uniform and should not be worn.
- Plain mid-grey or black trousers, or a skirt. Trousers should be tailored, not fitted or 'skin-tight'. Skirts should be A-line, straight or pleated and of modest length, but not so long as to be dangerous when moving around school.
- Plain grey or black socks, or tights. Please note that students who choose to wear a skirt may wear socks or tights; they are not permitted to wear both, i.e. socks over tights.
- Black shoes. Please note that trainers, high-heeled and canvas shoes are not permitted. Students wishing to wear a hijab must ensure that this is plain navy blue. All headscarves should be tucked into shirts to ensure that the Academy tie is visible.

### PE Uniform

- Academy trackpants or leggings, t-shirt and mid-layer (available to purchase from the school)
- Trainers
- Blue sports hijabs can be purchased from the school

### Outdoor Clothing

- All Students should wear a plain coat in dark navy blue or black.
- Hooded tops, 'bomber jackets' and leather, plastic or denim materials are not permitted. Coats should be logo-free; they should not contain lettering or decoration.

### Hair, Make-up and Jewellery

- Hair is to be kept tidy and extremes of hairstyle (e.g. sculpturing, hair dyed bright colours) are not permitted. Make-up or nail varnish should not be worn.
- Students with pierced ears are permitted to wear one small stud in each ear.
- Nose studs and other facial piercings are not to be worn. (clear nose stud/retainer are acceptable)
- Students may wear wrist watches but other jewellery should not be worn, except where it has been considered and approved by the Principal/Associate Principal.

We suggest that all garments are clearly named.

